Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, In 1880, the Chicago & North Western Railway was being built westward and passed by a landmark known to Native Americans, as well as early white travelers, as "Lone Tree." The village was officially named Blunt in honor of John E. Blunt, chief engineer, for the Chicago and North Western Railway; and,

Whereas, In January 1882, George W. Freeland built a shack under this lone tree in the valley, and, later when plotting the town, an avenue was named Lone Tree. The Lone Tree Roller Mill was completed in 1884 at the cost of $30,000 and produced 200 barrels of flour daily; and,

Whereas, In 1882, the post office opened in Blunt with N. E. Westover as postmaster, the first store was opened by W. F. Seward of Pierre, and the first newspaper known as the *Medicine Valley Times* made its appearance. The original town site was platted in 1882, and a report dated August 4, 1883, indicated there were 6 hotels, 12 grocers, 11 law and land offices, 9 lumber yards, 5 dry goods stores, 4 clothing stores, 4 drug stores, 6 hardware stores, 5 saloons, and 4 bakeries with 1,000 people living in Blunt; and,

Whereas, Mentor Graham, regarded by many as the greatest influence on President Lincoln, lived the latter part of his life in Blunt, coming to Blunt from Illinois in 1883; and,

Whereas, Blunt will celebrate its 125th Anniversary on June 26 – 28, 2009, with a parade, card and tractor show, kids carnival, wagon train/trail ride, birthday cake and ice cream, Steve Russell Memorial 5K run, Swanson Family Entertainment, cow patty bingo, kids hog scramble, street dances, a community meal and church service, and much more:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 26 - 28, 2009, as

BLUNT QUASQUICENTENNIAL DAYS

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Second Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Teresa Bray Deputy

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State